



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,956	12/02/2003	Larry B. Pearson	1033-MS1015	2884
84326 7590 06/09/2009 AT & T LEGAL DEPARTMENT - Toler ATTN: PATENT DOCKETING ROOM 2A-207 ONE AT & T WAY BEDMINISTER, NJ 07921				
EXAMINER				
ADDY, THUAN KNOWLIN				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2614				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/09/2009		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/725,956

**Applicant(s)**

PEARSON, LARRY B.

**Examiner**

THJUAN K. ADDY

**Art Unit**

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2009.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's amendment filed on March 02, 2009 has been entered. Claims 7 and 11 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-19 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 4, and 7 being independent.
2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/02/2009 has been entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-10, 12-14, 17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Williams (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2004/0105536 A1).
4. In regards to claim 1, Williams discloses a method of routing a call to a voice mailbox based on a redirecting number (See pg. 2, paragraph [0015]), the method comprising: receiving a call from an originating device at a first redirecting device (e.g., original called number); forwarding the call from the first redirecting device to a second redirecting device (e.g., redirecting number), the forwarded call having an associated data message (e.g., redirected initial address message {RIAM}) that includes a calling number of the originating device and a first redirecting number of the first redirecting device (See pg. 4, paragraph [0037]); and forwarding the call from the second redirecting device to a destination voice mailbox (e.g., identified/selected voice mail box), the destination voice mailbox selected from a plurality of voice mailboxes associated with a user, the destination voice mailbox selected based on an evaluation of the first redirecting number (e.g., original called number) and a second redirecting

number (e.g., redirecting number) (See pg. 4, paragraph [0039] and pg. 6, paragraph [0057]).

5. In regards to claim 2, Williams discloses the method, wherein the destination voice mailbox is provided by a voicemail system (e.g., voice mail system {VMS} 10) (See pg. pg. 6, paragraph [0057]).

6. In regards to claim 3, Williams discloses the method, wherein at least one of the first and the second redirecting numbers is compared to a set of predetermined authorized redirecting numbers and wherein the voice mailbox is selected from a group of available voice mailboxes based upon at least one of the first and the second redirecting numbers (See pg. 4, paragraph [0039] and pg. 6, paragraph [0057]).

7. In regards to claims 4, 7, and 19, Williams discloses a method and system of processing an intelligent network communication (See Fig. 1), the method comprising: receiving a query message at a switch control point (e.g., disclosed but not shown); determining that inbound call data includes a redirecting number of a redirecting device; formulating a response message to the query message, the response message to indicate an address for a destination voicemail account, wherein the destination voicemail account is one of a plurality of voicemail accounts associated with a user, the address determined based upon the redirecting number of the redirecting device; sending the response message to a service switching point (e.g., SSP 20a-20d); and routing a call to the destination voicemail account based upon the address (See pg. 3, paragraph [0031] – [0032] and pg. 4, paragraph [0038] – [0039]).

8. In regards to claim 5, Williams discloses the method, further comprising comparing the redirecting number to a plurality of authorized redirecting numbers (See pg. 4, paragraph [0039] and pg. 6, paragraph [0057]).

9. In regards to claim 6, Williams discloses the method, wherein the response message indicates forwarding the call to the destination voicemail account only when the redirecting number is found within the plurality of authorized redirecting numbers (See pg. 4, paragraph [0038] – [0039]).

10. In regards to claim 8, Williams discloses the system, wherein the service switching point (e.g., SSP 20a-20d) is coupled to a second service switching point (e.g., SSP 20a-20d) that is coupled to a destination voicemail system (e.g., voice mail system {VMS} 10) (See Fig. 1).

11. In regards to claim 9, Williams discloses the system, wherein the service switching point receives a data message (e.g., redirected initial address message {RIAM}) associated with a call prior to sending the request message to the switching control point (See pg. 4, paragraph [0038]).

12. In regards to claim 10, Williams discloses the system, wherein the service switching point is coupled to a signaling system 7 type of communication link (See pg. 4, paragraph [0037]).

13. In regards to claim 12, Williams discloses the system, wherein the second service switching point receives a message that includes a calling number, a called number, a first redirecting number, and a second redirecting number (See pg. 5, paragraph [0044] – [0045]).

14. In regards to claims 13 and 14, Williams discloses the system, wherein the second service switching point (e.g., SSP 20a-20d) includes a memory that stores data related to a plurality of different voicemail accounts (See pg. 3-4, paragraph [0035] and pg. 5, paragraph [0044] – [0046]).

15. In regards to claim 17, Williams discloses the system, wherein a first greeting is presented upon access to the first voice mailbox and a second greeting is presented upon access to the second voice mailbox (See pg. 2, paragraph [0015] and pg. 4, paragraph [0039]).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 11, 15, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2004/0105536 A1).

17. In regards to claims 11 and 18, Williams discloses all of claims 11 and 18 limitations, except the system, wherein the call is routed to a default home voicemail system when the redirecting number is not found in an authorized list of redirecting numbers. Williams, however, does disclose the use of a default redirecting reason code/unassigned redirecting reason code (See pg. 6, paragraph [0058]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

incorporate this limitation within the system, as a way of directing the call to a voicemail box even when the redirection information parameter contains unavailable information/reason.

18. In regards to claim 15, Williams discloses all of claim 15 limitations, except the system, wherein the first redirecting number entry is associated with a work phone and wherein the first voice mailbox is a designated work voicemail account. Williams, however, does disclose wherein the first redirecting number entry is associated with a original called number and wherein the first voice mailbox is a designated original called number voice mail box (See pg. 6, paragraph [0057]).

19. In regards to claim 16, Williams discloses all of claim 16 limitations, except the system, wherein the second redirecting number entry is associated with a mobile communication device and wherein the second voice mailbox is a designated mobile communication device voicemail account. Williams, however, does disclose wherein the second redirecting number entry is associated with a redirecting number and wherein the second voice mail box is a designated redirecting number voicemail (See pg. 6, paragraph [0057]).

### ***Response to Arguments***

20. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.



***Conclusion***

21. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Williams (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2003/0099341 A1) teaches a method and system for providing access to a voice mail system. Lin (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2002/0031207 A1) teaches a user editable database to forward communications sent to an unified access number to caller-specific destinations.

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THJUAN K. ADDY whose telephone number is (571)272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

23. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

24. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/725,956  
Art Unit: 2614

Page 9

/Thjuan K. Addy/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614